

BOOK REVIEWS

A Handbook on Practical Treatment. By many writers. Edited by John H. Musser, M. D., LL.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and A. O. J. Kelly, A. M., M. D., Assistant Professor of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Volume II, Cloth. Price, \$6 net. Pp. 865, with 103 illustrations. Philadelphia. W. B. Saunders Co. 1911.

This volume, the second of the three volumes to be published by the authors, treats of forty-three subjects, written by twenty-eight contributors.

In the introductory article by Sir Clifford Allbut is a careful discussion of the principles of cardiac therapeutics. This is followed by a brief description, and mode of treatment, of forms of acute cardiac disease, including endocarditis, pericarditis, and hemopericardium. Much stress is laid by the author on rheumatism as a cause of endo and pericarditis, and the value of frequent heart examinations. Special reference is made to the tonsils as a focus of infection. He advises the use of salicylates combined with the bicarbonate of soda, in large doses, emphasizes the importance of position and the care of the tonsils and throat. Much space is given to myocarditis, with a discussion of its physical signs, of the basis of treatment, and of the failure of the heart from poisoning of the muscular fibers. In acute cardiac disease he uses digitalis with caution, and prefers strophanthus and caffeine as a means to increase muscular tone.

In discussing chronic diseases of the heart, a general review of the more important pathological conditions are given, cardiac tests, including the Gander test described, and the latest drug therapy outlined. Several pages are given to diet, hydrotherapy, exercise, nursing, and climate. Functional diseases, chronic valvular diseases, and diseases of the arteries, concludes the section. This section covers about a sixth of the volume and demands special study.

"Typhoid Fever" by Rufus Cole is full of practical points. Prophylaxis and disinfection are well gone into. Serum therapy is outlined, with the conclusion that the various sera used at the present time possess little value. The greater part of this section is devoted to the various forms of diet advocated, with many illustrations on the technique of hydrotherapy as a therapeutic agent. The surgical complications are brought out by John M. Finney.

Hobart Amory Hare, on "Pneumonia," covers the treatment of the disease in a few pages, with far too few words on the open air treatment. With the brilliant results obtained by this method, a more thorough recognition of this phase of the treatment should be given. Diphtheria is discussed by Weaver, in a very ably written article. In speaking of the principles upon which the action of diphtheria antitoxin rests, he insists that the dose be large, and given at frequent intervals early in the disease. He speaks of the treacherousness of scarlet fever, and emphasizes the importance of care in the mildest cases.

"Tuberculosis," by Osgood Otis, covers one hundred and seventy-seven pages and is the most comprehensive article in the volume. In such a brief review not enough can be said of this important section. Along with individual and general prophylaxis he calls our attention to the various kinds of open air schools, which are aiding so much in the fight against disease. The details of open air life are exhaustive in the extreme, with descriptions of many of the large state and private sanatoria, in this and foreign countries. A general discussion on diet is given, with samples of dietaries from differ-

ent institutions. The author in summing up the tuberculin treatment, considers the tolerance method advocated by Trudeau, the best method, and says that tuberculin used by carefully trained men, is indicated in the modern management of the disease.

"Syphilis" is written by two authors, J. William White, and Alfred C. Wood, and contains nothing new on the treatment of the subject. In advertising this volume the publishers emphasized the space given to "Salvarsan" in this section, but it is brief and general, and gives neither the dosage or methods of administration. Edward Martin, speaking of the vaccine therapy in chronic gonorrhea, considers the best results, up to date, are obtained from an autogenous vaccine.

This work contains many points on the prophylaxis and quarantine in the infectious diseases, which should be helpful to the reader, and in Schamberg's contribution on "Variola" a practical discussion on these points is given. The importance he lays on vaccine in prophylaxis and treatment is also instructive.

Lewellys F. Barker, in his article on cerebrospinal fever, outlines in a concise manner the method of administration of Flexnor's serum, with a classification of the bacteria causing the symptoms.

"Plague" and "Cholera Asiatica" are under the same authorship, with the history, mode of infection and mortality of these fatal diseases.

Among the infectious diseases left to be described are "Influenza" and "Rheumatism" by Stengel, "Pertussis" and "Mumps," by McC. Hamill, and "Dysentery" by Charles F. Martin. Tropical diseases, including a well written article on "Malaria" by Roseman and Anderson, deserves special mention.

The volume ends with an article on "Animal Parasites," by Reisman, which covers admirably this field.

From the excellence of the articles, and the standard set by the authors in the volume, there is no doubt that the completed work will be one of the most valuable thus far published, and will be worthy of recommendation to the general practitioner.

H. H. Y.

Gonorrhea in the Male. By Abr. L. Wolbarst, M. D., Publisher International Journal Surgery Co., N. Y., 1911.

Wolbarst's book on "Gonorrhea in the Male" is a terse manual laden with thoroughly digested material on diagnosis and treatment. It is a well written guide picturing in a clear and concise manner the experiences of a practical specialist, who believes in conservatism.

As it is a volume affording a comprehensive survey, within a compact space, preserving all essentials, it can be safely recommended to the general practitioner.

L. G.

"What Shall I Eat?" By Dr. F. X. Gourard. Translated by F. J. Rebman. Published by Rebman Co. N. Y. 1911.

The author, like most French writers, presents his subject in an interesting manner. While covering the subject most scientifically, his style always remains graceful and his language simple. Physicians who have not the time or patience to study the larger works on dietetics, as well as those who have studied them but whose ideas are not well crystallized on the subject, will derive much pleasure and lasting benefit from this book. It is furthermore a work that can safely be recommended to laymen, healthy or sick, who are too often prone to read and follow the teachings of faddists, of such fruitarians as the Christians or of the Sinclair (here the designation faddist is ultra charitable) starvers.

R. B.